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AMBLYSCHIRTES "ERNA,"

A FORM OF AMBLYSCHIRTES AENUS

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AMBLYSCHIRTES "ERNA" Freeman is distinguished from *A. aenus* Edwards by having smaller wing spots. On May 20-21, 1973, I collected 85 *Amblyschirtes* of these two entities at Black Mesa, Cimarron County, Oklahoma (from where *erna* but not *aenus* was recorded by Freeman, 1973), and adjacent Furnish Canyon, Baca County, Colorado. Most were of the heavily spotted form, but 16 had the ventral wing spots reduced to varying degrees and three were nearly immaculate. Prominence of the male stigma was somewhat variable as in most *aenus* populations. The darkest individual was a female from Furnish Canyon, which matched a female from the type locality of *erna* (Palo Duro Canyon, Armstrong County, Texas), and was even less spotted than the male holotype *erna* that I examined in the American Museum. The Furnish Canyon female laid several eggs which produced three male offspring, all of which were the normal *aenus* form with many whitish spots and a strong ventral fore wing reddish flush in the cell. Because 1) *erna* phenotypes are found with *aenus* phenotypes, and 2) *erna* phenotypes produce *aenus* offspring, I conclude that the two names represent endpoints of a continuum of variation of one species, *A. aenus*. *A. "erna"* seems to be a form, either genetic or environmental, of *A. aenus*. In my opinion *A. "linda"* Freeman is also a subspecies of *A. aenus*.

LITERATURE CITED

- FREEMAN, H. A. 1973. A review of the *Amblyschirtes* with the description of a new species from Mexico (Hesperiidae). *J. Lepid. Soc.* 27: 40-57.